



Request for Proposals for Community-Based Habitat Restoration Projects Through the FishAmerica Foundation and the NOAA Restoration Center

The [American Sportfishing Association](#)'s (ASA) [FishAmerica Foundation](#) invites proposals for citizen-driven habitat restoration projects in 2006 under its partnership with the [NOAA Community-based Restoration Program](#).

Proposal Deadline – **January 27, 2006 at 5:00 PM**

Grant Awards Announced – **June 30, 2006**

Download Grant Applications – <http://www.fishamerica.org>

Request for Proposals

The partnership requests proposals for local efforts to accomplish meaningful on-the-ground restoration of marine, estuarine and riparian habitats, including salt marshes, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, and freshwater habitats important to anadromous fish species (fish like salmon and striped bass that spawn in freshwater and migrate to the sea). Emphasis is on using a hands-on, grassroots approach to restore fisheries habitat across coastal America and the Great Lakes.

Eligible Projects

Projects must result in on-the-ground habitat restoration, clearly demonstrate significant benefits to marine, estuarine or anadromous fisheries resources, particularly sportfish, and must involve community participation through an educational or volunteer component tied to the restoration activities. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate the participation of NOAA staff to strengthen the development and implementation of sound restoration projects. Projects in the Great Lakes must restore habitat for migratory sportfish or forage species in the Great Lakes and applicable tributaries. Projects focusing on the management or removal of aquatic invasive/nuisance species will not be considered.

Eligible Applicants

Non-profit organizations such as local sporting clubs and conservation associations and local and state governments may apply for funding. Non-profit organizations must provide proof of non-profit status (i.e. 501(c)(3) letter from the IRS). Local and state agencies, educational institutions and other government entities should provide their EIN number. Applicants may also have fiscal sponsors for the project however the fiscal sponsor must be a non-profit organization.

Proposal Guidelines

Eligible budget items include on-the-ground restoration materials (vegetation/planting materials, culverts/fishways, streambank stabilization materials, etc.), contractual labor (heavy equipment rental and operation, engineering, etc.), on-site salaries (project manager, volunteer coordinator,

etc.), and monitoring equipment. Sub-awards will range between \$5,000 and \$50,000 per project. Proposals may be part of a larger restoration project funded through additional sources; however, FAF/NOAA-funded on-the-ground restoration activities must be completed within one year of a grant award. *Contact FishAmerica at (703) 519-9691 for specific budget questions.*

Applying for Funding

Applicants must submit **three copies of the completed** FishAmerica Foundation/NOAA Restoration Center Application for Funding for Community-Based Habitat Restoration Projects and **three copies** of all required documentation. The application is available on FishAmerica's website at <http://www.fishamerica.org>.

Permit Requirements

Applicants must provide a list and current status (obtained, application filed, when anticipate obtaining approval, or have not applied) of all necessary federal, state, tribal and local permits required to complete the project and the appropriate regulatory agency contact (name, title, phone) for each permitting agency. FishAmerica will require copies of permit and compliance documentation once the documentation is secured and prior to the release of grant funds.

FishAmerica grantees will be required to satisfy all financial and programmatic requirements and meet all local, state and tribal environmental laws and Federal consistency requirements before project implementation.

National Environmental Policy Act Requirements

All proposals will be reviewed and approved for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance by NOAA Fisheries with assistance from the FishAmerica Foundation. All projects must comply with NEPA before FishAmerica will release funds. For more information on NEPA, please visit NOAA's website at <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov>.

Applicants will be required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, the presence of historic structures, and impacts to coral reef systems) in order for NOAA to make a NEPA determination on each proposal.

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal.

Monitoring and Estuary Restoration Act of 2000

In support of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 and the million-acre goal, FishAmerica will work toward monitoring and evaluating restoration project proposals under the partnership. FishAmerica and NOAA will work together to determine monitoring parameters and success targets for successful applicants based on the *NOAA Restoration Center Minimum Monitoring*

Requirements. Applicants may be required to work with NOAA and establish monitoring parameters and techniques to evaluate project success. For more information on the *NOAA Minimum Monitoring Requirements* see:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/partners_funding/project_reports.html.

Total Available Funding

The FishAmerica Foundation and the NOAA Restoration Center anticipate the availability of up to \$800,000 under this solicitation. Funding will be announced in June 2006.

Grant Award Reimbursement

Grant funds for approved projects will be available to grant recipients by one of three reimbursement schedules during the grant period:

1. The full amount of the grant award will be made available following project completion and submission of the final report and all required documents.
2. A portion of the grant funds (to be determined by FAF and NOAA) may be made available following submission of an interim report and financial documentation of expenditures up to the time of reporting. The remaining portion of funds will be made available upon completion of the project and submission of the final report and all required documents
3. A portion of the grant funds may be made available no more than eight weeks prior to project implementation. The remaining portion of funds will be made available upon completion of the project and submission of the final report and all required documents

In all cases, funds will not be released until FishAmerica has received a signed contract, all required permit and compliance documentation, and is assured that the project meets all financial and programmatic requirements; all local, state and tribal environmental laws and Federal consistency requirements; NEPA Compliance, and NOAA's Minimum Monitoring Requirements. Grant recipients will be contacted prior to receipt of the grant contract to discuss reimbursement schedule options.

Grant Award Matching Requirements

Applicants may be required to provide at least a one-to-one non-federal match for grants awarded under the FishAmerica Foundation/NOAA Restoration Center partnership. Grant recipients will be contacted prior to receipt of the grant contract to discuss matching requirements.

Proposal Submission

The FishAmerica Foundation must receive three hardcopies of the completed applications and three hardcopies of all required documentation **no later than January 27, 2006 by 5:00 PM.** Electronic and faxed applications will **NOT** be accepted. Proposals must be submitted to:

FAF/NOAA RFP – Grant Applications
FishAmerica Foundation
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be jointly evaluated and ranked by NOAA technical staff and FishAmerica staff. Recommended proposals will be forwarded to the FishAmerica Conservation Committee for final funding consideration. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criterion:

1. Extent to which the project will improve habitat for fisheries resources;
2. Technical merit of the project,
3. Project feasibility, including the ability of the proposed project to deliver the stated restoration objective;
4. Specificity of results, benefits and products;
5. Effectiveness of project monitoring in determining improvements to fisheries habitat and water quality;
6. Cost effectiveness and budget detail and justification;
7. Partnership/Cooperation from community groups and other organizations;
8. Availability of matching funds;
9. Environmental compliance.

Contact Information

Grant applicants may contact FishAmerica at fishamerica@asafishing.org with questions regarding potential proposals. For more information, please visit the following websites:

FishAmerica Foundation: <http://www.fishamerica.org>

NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP):

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/index.html